

Pioneer Spikers Run in Prelims

The Fearless Spectator



By Charles McCabe, Esquire

One is home from the fleshpots of Europe, where only the other day one was sloshing up mad quantities of Effete-Rothschild, '69 in one's pad at the Ritz overlooking Napoleon overlooking the Palace Vendome. The Rothschild has a splendid vest, as we say in wino circles.

And what am I thinking about? Baseball, of course.

One is back to reality. And reality, of course, is Willie McCovey, Giant outfielder and, in some respects, the last great hope of us here losers.

Willie, you will recall, ALMOST became the greatest man in the world one day last year when a ball he hit in the ninth inning of the last game of the World Series could have won that highest of human collective efforts.

In losing the prize, Willie crept into the hearts of all. He became a lovable loser, which was a chic thing to be on a team that during the season showed oodles of lovable incompetence.

Fortunately for the Giants, a group of lads from Los Angeles was even more lovably incompetent, leaving them like Flynn in the senior circuit.

Doubtless the most significant development of the Spring maneuvers was Giant manager Al Dark's stunning discovery that you could candle baseball players, like eggs, and come up with the conclusion that Orlando Cepeda was 40 minus while Willie Mays was 100 plus.

But not far behind was the fact that Mr. McCovey got his just desserts. Enfin, as we say in French baseball circles.

This year Willie is on the Rice Krispies boxes. Last you make light of this, getting the old effigy on the outside of a breakfast cereal box is nothing to give the old sneeze to.

Each morning the flower of our youth ingest immense quantities of processed sawdust, heavily embedded in milk and cream, and gaze upon the visages of those gallants of the Big Stick. And dream of the time when they can have lots of lovely, lovely loot if they follow the American Dream and sell their souls to the National League.

The milk doesn't do them any harm.

Willie looks pretty good on the box. Full of concentration and purpose. He wears a golf glove on his right hand as he is in full swing against left-handed pitching. He is now officially Baseball Star Card No. 147.

The Rice Krispies people are a little awry in their stats on the box I saw. Willie's batting average is listed at an ignoble .238. That was 1960. Willie was off that year. It was his second year in the majors. Rice Krispies gave his lifetime batting average at a more than presentable .288.

While I assure you that, as a status symbol, Rice Krispies is right up there—like being invited to join the board of General Motors and turning it down because you're too busy collecting Goyas—I would not be accurate if I failed to point out that this is not quite the top of the heap.

The top is Wheaties, another odd dish much favored by the young. My researchers have not disclosed whether Willie has been tapped by Wheaties yet. But there is no doubt in my mind he will make it, in due time.

Willie is clearly upward mobile. He committed numerous homers in spring training, thus richly publicizing Squire Stoneham's real estate holdings in Casa Grande, Ariz., among other things.

And he got a raise this year, which means he is in the good books of Mr. Dark, the Archimedes of the Nat'l Pastime.

Willie knows he is good because Mr. Dark says so. In this he is not in the confused state of Mr. Cepeda, who thought he was good because he was batting over .300. But was still 40 minus in his leader's books.

I shall be pleased and proud when Willie ascends the social ladder to Wheaties, but I must offer a cautionary note to my adult readers. Both Rice Krispies and Wheaties go lousy with bourbon.

Lennox Thinclads Slip By Tartars

Basketball star Lynn Archibald's field event double failed to save Torrance High from going down to a 56-49 track defeat at the hands of Lennox on Monday.

Archibald, who has been out for track only about half the season, captured the broad jump and the high jump. The tall senior led a Tartar sweep in the broad jump with a leap of 19-10.

Bob Romero went 19-2 for second followed by Ed Watson at 19-1. In the high jump, a leap of 5-8 netted Archibald first with Charlie Myers third at 5-6.

ONLY THREE other first

places came to Torrance. Mike Hatter won the 120 high hurdles with Myers second. Half-miler Ivor Sampson won his event in 2:04.4 with Steve Brown third. In the mile, Dennis Dyer picked up first-place points with a 4:40.4 effort.

Pat Lewandowski gained two third places with a 10.8 clocking in the century and a 24.3 time in the 220. LARRY PARKER gained a second for Torrance in the quarter mile by turning in a 33.3 effort. Senior shot putter Mike Hadley recorded his top put ever by hitting 47-1. Hadley, out for his first track season, is up 12 feet from where he first started.

Torrance, West Vie In League Qualifier

Cinder squads from Torrance and West highs will compete in the Pioneer League track preliminaries tomorrow at 12:30 p.m. on the Beverly Hills High oval. Field events will begin at 12:30 with running events starting at 12:45 p.m. Torrance will take a swing at several individual crowns while West will concentrate

its forces in the Bee division. Defending mile champ Dennis Dyer will drop down to the 880 for Torrance where he will take a top time of 2:00.1 into competition. Dyer's time is the best recorded in the league this year.

Last year's 1320 winner Ivor Sampson will take a crack at the mile field with a top clocking of 4:31.8. Lynn Archibald will enter the broad jump, with a best of 20-5, and the high jump, with a best of 5-9.

CHARLIE MYERS will also try two events. Myers has a best of 17.1 in the 120 high hurdles and a top effort of 5-7 in the high jump. Also entered in the high hurdles is Mike Hatter at 16 seconds.

The Tartars will also enter Russ Bleakley, 53 seconds, in the quarter mile, Larry Parker, 2:02.8, in the half mile, and Mike Hadley, 47-1, and John Smoot, 45 feet, in the shot put.

RON PETTIGREW, with the best time in the league at 3:25.5 for the Bee 1320, will top West. Tom Jurco will enter the 660 with a 1:30.2 effort, third fastest in the league this season.

Jim Kelley will run in the 100 and 220. Kelley has hit 10.4 for the century and 23.4 for the furlong. Juco, with a best of 10.4 will also enter the 100.

STEVE McCONATHY, tied for the league best in the pole vault at 11-6, will enter his pet event with teammate Mike McMurray who has hit 11-3.

In the Cee division, Howard McVey, 1:33, and Ralph Armstrong, 1:34, will go in the 660. Jim Marshall, with a 10.8 clocking in the century, and a 39-second effort in the 330, will run in both events.

Spartans Commit Ruinous Bobbles

Turning in what coach Jerry McIlvaine called "our worst game all year," South horse-hiders dropped an 8-3 decision to Santa Monica on Tuesday in a Bay League baseball contest.

The Spartans committed eight errors and McIlvaine said after the game, "Mentally, our club played very poorly."

South's season record slipped to 5-7 and ace chucker Eric Spellman, the victim of the errors, fell to 4-3 for the circuit campaign.

SANTA MONICA and South each pushed across single runs in the first and third frames, but Samo turned on the steam

for one in the fourth, three more in the fifth and wound up with two runs in the sixth to ice the contest.

Coach McIlvaine will attempt to regroup his forces for an engagement with league-leading Hawthorne this afternoon on the Cougar diamond.

HAWTHORNE still leads the league with an 8-3 record following a 7-6 defeat at the hands of Redondo on Tuesday. Redondo is second in the circuit with a 9-2 mark.

Paul Vojtecky, 1-0 this year, will take to the mound for South.

Tartar Nine Pulls Upset on Aviation

Powerful Aviation suffered only its second Pioneer League baseball defeat of the season on Tuesday as Torrance grabbed a 6-2 decision.

Cindermen In Tuneup For Finals

Track squads from North and South High will tune up for the Bay League finals next weekend with dual meets tomorrow against top circuit squads.

North will journey to Santa Monica for a 3 p.m. battle with the undefeated Vikings. South will also take to the road, meeting a strong Morningside aggregation under the lights.

Field events for South will start at Sentinel Field in Inglewood at 6:30 p.m. with running events beginning an hour later.

North figures to be completely outclassed, but South coach Dick Scully says, "We could break it wide open if we are lucky." In a more conservative tone, Scully has figured it a 52-52 tie giving the Monarchs all the breaks.

Last year, Morningside and South deadlocked in their dual meet struggle.

Torrance boosted its league record to 8-4 by virtue of the victory and maintained its hope of a second place finish. Aviation is currently on top with a 10-2 mark while Palos Verdes is second at 9-3 and Torrance and El Segundo are in a deadlock for third at 8-4.

Palos Verdes and Torrance have a tie to their credit and the game will be played off at the end of the regular schedule.

BOTH AVIATION losses have now come at the hands of Torrance nines. In the first round of competition, a red-hot West High outfit put down the Falcons.

Despite giving up nine hits, Tartar chucker Don Coil boomed to his sixth victory of the league campaign with only one defeat to mar his record. Coil sent 10 men down swinging and gave up but one walk.

IN THE meantime, Aviation mound ace Hugh Reynolds was absorbing his initial loss of the season. Prior to Tuesday, both Reynolds and former basketball star Gary Lloyd boasted unblemished slates.

Torrance bashed nine hits with catcher Steve Waters belting two doubles in four trips to the dish to lead the parade. One of Waters' doubles accounted for two Tartar tallies and iced the contest.

THE TARTARS scored single runs in the first, second, and fourth frames, while Aviation managed to tally only in the fourth and sixth innings.

THIS went into the bottom half of the sixth stanza with a 3-2 lead, then broke the contest open with three runs.

DON COIL started the big sixth off by reaching first on an error. Bill Coffman then singled, sending Coil screaming into third base.

Waters doubled both base runners across. Another two-bagger, this time by Jim Coffman, pushed Waters home and finished the scoring.

MIKE BLANKENSHIP will get the starting nod from coach Irv Kasten today at 3 p.m. against Culver City. The crucial fray will be held on the Centaur diamond.

Torrance stands a chance of moving up another game in the standings as Aviation battles a rugged El Segundo club.

Race Pits Top Pilots At Lions

The nation's two top Class B field dragsters will meet in a match race Saturday night at Lions Drag Strip in Long Beach.

Competing for the top spot among the nation's fuelers will be the Forsberg and Hubbard dragster from San Francisco and Tom McCourry of San Fernando. The winner will race against the gas eliminator finalist later in the evening for the top eliminator title.

Knights First Despite Loss

Despite a 7-2 loss to St. Bernards on Tuesday, Bishop Montgomery remained in a tie for first place in the Camino Real League baseball chase.

St. Bernards, after dropping a decision last Friday and falling one game off the pace, took advantage of four Knight errors to move back into a first place tie.

Montgomery saw its six-game winning streak go down the drain and its league record fall to 6-2 by virtue of the defeat.



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GREGG PETERSON, Sports Editor

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BASEBALL CUTIE . . . Main Street Sally, a center fielder for the California Cuties, will appear Saturday night, May 11 against the Torrance Elks. The game will be played in Torrance Park as the Elks go up against the Cuties' 1026-138 record. The Cuties, who are top West Coast softball stars dressed in womens garb, recently completed an 18,000-mile tour of the Far East.

Mira Costa Hands NHS 7-1 Loss

Down by six runs at the end of the first frame, downtrodden North High played Mira Costa on even terms from that point on, but still dropped a 7-1 Bay League baseball duke on Tuesday.

Micohi took advantage of shaky pitching and a crucial error to push in game-icing tallies across in the initial frame. Usually dependable North southpaw Jay Baker hit one batter, gave up three walks and four hits to play his part in the disaster.

Shortstop Joe DeLuca, substituting for injured all-leaguer Carey Hubert, bobbled one easy out that allowed two Mustang runs across.

ALL OF THIS came despite a double play.

North's only run came in the second frame when Norm Dow walked, went to third on a single by Daryl Wilson, and came across on a sacrifice fly to left field by Dave Rance.

DICK WEBSTER took over to start the third for North and gave up only a double and two singles in going the rest of the route. Webster fanned four men and walked three. The lone Mustang run off him came in the fifth frame.

The Saxons will travel to Morningside this afternoon with Jim Jensen taking the mound for coach Mel Nygren's crew. Jensen has one of North's two wins during the league campaign.

Eagles Edge West On Nifty Two-Hitter

Stingy El Segundo hurler Bill Baker limited West High to only two hits on Tuesday as his teammates earned a 3-0 Pioneer League baseball triumph.

Baker, who has given up only three hits in his last two starts, knocked West out of any chance for second place while keeping his Eagles charging toward a runner-up berth.

While West's league record was slipping to 5-6, Warrior hurler John Marsden was absorbing his third loss against five victories. The sophomore chucker sent nine men down swinging, issued four walks and gave up six hits.

Warrior Golfers End Loop Year

Continuing to dominate Metropolitan Conference golf competition, El Camino divot-diggers travel to Cerritos tomorrow to meet the luckless Falcons at 1 p.m.

Warrior linksters continue their winning stint as they defeated San Diego 46-8.

Five of the six Tribe golfers recorded scores in the 70s. Low medalist for the day was Dan Titus with a two over par 74.

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WEST IS dangerous on the basepaths, when it can get men on. The Warriors have stolen 32 bases in 42 attempts this season, but most of the thefts came in the early part of the year when West was burning up the circuit.

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Things have slowed down since Dave Yeskin, the fastest man on the team, suffered a split thumb, which put him out for the year, when he was hit by a pitched ball against Palos Verdes.

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LINING IT UP . . . Dennis Drury, a graduate of Bishop Montgomery, is now a consistent under-80 golfer for El Camino's top golf squad. Drury will see action May 3 and 6 when the Warriors close out the Metropolitan Conference season against East Los Angeles and Long Beach.